

# Irish-American Scholar Program

## Sponsored by

**Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
United Methodist-Related Colleges and Universities**

## In cooperation with

**Queens University Belfast  
University of Ulster  
Belfast Metropolitan College  
Stranmillis University College  
St. Mary's University College**

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## **Participating Schools**

**Queens University Belfast** and **University of Ulster** are internationally recognized. They do not offer courses in all disciplines, but most U.S. students will find appropriate subjects at these institutions. The University of Ulster has multiple campuses. Students will be placed at a specific campus depending on their field of study.

**Belfast Metropolitan College** specializes in educating students with strong career goals in vocational areas such as business, marketing, computing, performing arts, communication and Irish studies.

**Stranmillis University College** specializes in teacher training.

**St. Mary's University College** specializes in liberal arts and teacher training.

The programs and faculty at all of these institutions are of high quality and U.S. students can expect a fulfilling year. More information can be found at:

Queens University Belfast: [www.qub.ac.uk](http://www.qub.ac.uk)

University of Ulster: [www.ulster.ac.uk](http://www.ulster.ac.uk)

Belfast Metropolitan College: [www.belfastmet.ac.uk](http://www.belfastmet.ac.uk)

Stranmillis University College: [www.stran.ac.uk](http://www.stran.ac.uk)

St. Mary's University college: [www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk](http://www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk)

## **Who May Apply**

Current sophomore and junior students at U.S. colleges that participate in Study USA (formerly the Business Education Initiative). [Note: If your school has agreed to host a Study USA student during the current academic year, you may apply as an Irish American Scholars even there is not a Study USA student currently at your campus.] Students may not attend a school in Northern Ireland for their final semester of study. In order to obtain a Visa, students must return to the U.S. to complete their education. This means that juniors may only apply for the fall semester. Because they usually have not completed sufficient course work in their major field of study, students who are currently freshmen will not be accepted as Irish American Scholars.

## **Limitations**

Schools in Northern Ireland limit the number of students they will accept as Irish American Scholars. Acceptance is generally determined by space availability and by a student's GPA. Students who apply for a full year may be offered only one semester because of space limitations. There are generally fewer opportunities to place students for the spring semester.

## **Grade Point Requirement**

A minimum **cumulative** GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. **No Exceptions!**

## **Application Process**

Students must be nominated by their home institution and must submit:

- A completed application form
- An official academic transcript through the fall semester of the current academic year
- A 500-word essay describing the applicant's educational objectives while studying in Northern Ireland (Students should determine in advance that what they hope to study is offered at the institutions they select.)
- Two letters of reference – one from the student's academic advisor and one from another faculty member or administrator at the applicant's home institution

Institutions must send six copies of all application materials to:

Wanda Fuller  
Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202  
[wanda.fuller@pcusa.org](mailto:wanda.fuller@pcusa.org)  
1-888-728-7228 ext. 5509

## **Deadline**

Applications must be postmarked by February 1. No exceptions!

## **Selection Process**

Participating schools in Northern Ireland review all applications and make final selections and placements. Qualified applicants who are not accepted may be put on a reserve list and offered a placement if another student declines. Applicants who are accepted will be notified in March and must accept or decline by April 1. Students will receive information from their school in Northern Ireland usually in mid- to late April. **Placements are final and are not subject to negotiation.** Accepted students must complete all required paperwork from their assigned school in Northern Ireland as requested.

## **Special Considerations**

- Students planning to study art must submit a portfolio of their work on CD with their application materials or via a Web site. Art students should have completed significant course work before applying.
- Students planning to study science or math should have completed significant coursework in their field prior to studying in Northern Ireland.
- Students attending the University of Ulster will take all of their courses at one campus. It is not possible to take courses at more than one. Applicants should, therefore, determine if all of the courses they wish to take are available at a particular UU campus.
- University of Ulster is the best choice for history majors who want to study Irish history.
- Education/Teaching is available only at Stranmillis or St. Mary's. Preference is given to students who have some in-classroom experience. Spring semester in Northern Ireland includes an in-school placement. Education students must, therefore, obtain a background check and bring the results to Northern Ireland.
- Students interested in studying a musical instrument at University of Ulster – McGee will be required to pay extra fees not included in the tuition/fee waiver from UU.
- At Belfast Metropolitan College students can generally take classes in only one subject field. International students can only take classes in HND or FD tracks. Business/marketing students must attend for a full year. Dance and theatre students must attend for the fall semester or for a full year, not for spring semester only.
- Applicants should talk with their advisor or campus director of international study to determine how study abroad will affect their academic program, specifically whether credit for courses in Northern Ireland will transfer to their home college.

## **Finances**

Irish-American Scholars must register and pay any tuition and fees required at their home college or university. Tuition and fees at accepting institutions will be waived, but students will be responsible for housing, food, travel, books and other living expenses in Northern Ireland. Some of these costs may be covered by financial aid at a student's home college. Students should contact the financial aid office at their home institution for advice on how aid will be applied in their particular situation. U.S. students in Northern Ireland find living expenses high, especially for food, so appropriate financial commitment must be secured.

## **Orientation**

International students must attend orientation programs, which are scheduled at the schools in Northern Ireland before the beginning of each semester.

## **Registration**

Registration for specific classes happens after a student arrives in Northern Ireland. Students should be flexible in selecting courses and should not assume that a particular class will be offered during the time they are in Northern Ireland.

## **Housing**

Housing can be arranged through the schools in Northern Ireland but this must be done in advance.

## **Traveling to Northern Ireland**

Students should read immigration rules carefully as the rules have changed and become stricter. When traveling to Northern Ireland, students must fly directly into Belfast or into another airport in the United Kingdom (e.g. London, Manchester or Glasgow). They must not fly via the Republic of Ireland (Dublin or Shannon), as they will not be cleared through immigration.

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*Program requirements and nomination and application forms can be found at:*

[www.presbyteriancolleges.org](http://www.presbyteriancolleges.org).